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Dispelling The Fog

By Charles Michelson, Director of Publicity, Democratic National Committee.

In you remember how bitterly the Roosevelt administration was assailed for bringing in a group of economic experts from the outside to help solve the problems of the depression? Do you recall the incredible calumnies prompting unofficial persons to run about over the national government of the United States engaged in the responsible offices of administering Soviet doctrines by subterranean methods?

It is hardly been the fashion of late years to speak of the "brain trust" as a term of opprobrium. Besides drama and Hollywood the phrase which President Roosevelt innocently applied became by no did not know what it was a part of the Republican National Committee would have run out of ammunition during the '36 campaign if it had not been for the reminder of the background for the New Deal. Even the proclamations and speeches, particularly as the Roosevelt policy-makers met successfully and confidently reappeared on the stage as though history had undergone a volte-face and New Deal politicians by the brain trust. Inasmuch as there was less assumption of superiority on the part of those who desire or had designs on the prospect of the inside of the White House, they do it.

It must come with a shock to the average friendly soul who is used to read in a newspaper that specialized in attributing the most fatal policies to impractical and unscientific persons that the Democratic party was going the college professors.

On the day that this is written in the New York Herald Tribune an interview giving in which 21 members of the family can join in the Christmas spirit. Why wait until the week before Christmas to do the things which turn up on the day? Why not make a festive occasion of the wedding out and the day before Christmas? There was less temptation to overdo the matter of presents and to be tired and cross on the day itself.

Mother should not be this year. Instead of spending the time before the festival in preparing and cooking a feast which will be eaten in a few minutes after the table is cleared, she can spend the time resting and getting ready for the day. If it is put off until the last minute, the whole job is done again that it was done before but that all work, hard and unnecessary, is avoided.

Father has treasured for years, perhaps the time expired when he would wear it again. Mother and children are shivering men walking the streets without any coats these days. Or here is an old quilt, preserved in mothballs for the time when it could be used. Why not send them again that it may do good to some with, but remind that there are children who go to bed wrapped in newspapers, and still are cold.

Be very careful about one thing. Don't give anything that is not in good condition. Clean and repair what can be salvaged. What you do looking for is gifts, something that you would be pleased to receive if you were in the position of someone else enjoy. A good test of what to give or whether you would be glad to receive it your self.

To collect and distribute these gifts effectively should not be difficult. If one person in each community would undertake to be responsible for the distribution of the gifts in the community, willing to organize a committee should be formed to work with the organization which knows who the needy are, so that the gifts may be distributed to those who are really needy.

If there anyone who reads this appeal can help push the campaign. The Red Cross chapters, working in connection with your clubs and your churches, should be willing to undertake the burden of the Red Cross and the Lions Clubs, and the Rotarians, the societies of the soldiers' and sailors' organizations.

This movement could be made through every community in the country. It would be a fine way to start the year 1938. Instead of the usual New Year's resolutions, which are broken by the middle of January, let those who have too little, and those who have too much, get together and do something for other people and other countries that will make them glad to be alive. To announce this campaign from the newspapers, local radio stations and newspapers would gladly give it publicity. Perhaps the moving picture companies, Movietone, Pathe News, Gaumont, Fox Movietone, Universal, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount, Hearst Metrotone, Educational Pictures, Inc., Twentieth Century-Fox, Warner Brothers, Columbia, United Artists, RKO Radio, Universal, Grand National, Republic, Monogram, Mayfair, Screen Guild, Producers Releasing Corporation, Film Classics, Inc., Selznick International, Walt Disney Productions, Inc., Hal Roach Studios, Inc., Columbia Pictures Corporation, Republic Pictures Corporation, Monogram Pictures Corporation, Mayfair Pictures Corporation, Grand National Pictures, Inc., Screen Guild Productions, Inc.,